STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A solid stool marker formulation which renders stool opaque to radiation in CT colography, said formulation comprising:

barium sulfate; and

a flocculant to flocculate said barium sulfate, wherein the amount of ionic dispersants in said solid stool marker formulation is less than 0.007 gram-equivalent weights of ionic dispersants per gram of barium sulfate; and wherein 0.25 g of said solid stool marker formulation diluted with water to 50ml and titrated against 3.0% w/v ferrous sulfate at pH 5.0-5.5 has a flocculation resistance of less than 5ml.

2. (Currently Amended) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the amount of barium sulfate present in said formulation is ~~administered in an amount~~ less than 7.5g per dose.

3. (Currently Amended) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the amount of barium sulfate ~~is~~ present in said formulation is ~~an amount of~~ 5g per dose.

4. (Currently Amended) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the amount of barium sulfate present in said formulation is ~~present in an amount~~ greater than 1g per dose.

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5. (Original) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the barium sulfate has a particle size of about 3 microns.

6. (Original) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the flocculant is smectite clay.

7. (Original) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 further including a viscosity modifier which does not behave as a protective colloid in respect of the material to render stool opaque to radiation.

8. (Original) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 further including an anti-caking agent.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Original) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the material to render stool opaque to radiation is present in an amount effective to differentiate stool from non-stool without rendering density or movement induced artefacts in a CT rendering of the stool.

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11. (Original) A solid stool marker formulation according to claim 1 wherein the solid composition comprises (% by weight):

Barium Sulfate	95 %
Smectite Clay	2 %
Xanthan gum	1.5 %
Sodium Citrate	0.10 %
Flavour, Sweetener, Preservatives	q.s.

12. (Original) A method of radiologically visualising the colon of a patient including the steps of:

orally administering to a patient a stool marker formulation according to claim 1 to render the stool opaque to radiation;

radiologically scanning the colon of the patient to produce data; and

manipulating the data to determine that portion of the data due to marked stool, to thereby provide a representation of the colon, including where present, a polyp.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the radiological visualisation is by means of a CT scanner.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the radiological visualisation is by means of a helical scanner.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the manipulation of the data involves subtraction of that portion of the data due to the marked stool, leaving a representation of the colon, including where present, a polyp.

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16. (Original) A method of preparing a patient for a radiological examination including the step of administering to the patient a formulation according to claim 1 to render stool opaque to radiation.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the formulation is administered orally over 24 to 48 hours preceding the radiological examination.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the formulation is administered in four or more dosages over 24 to 48 hours preceding the radiological examination.

19. (Previously Presented) The solid stool marker formulation of claim 1, wherein the amount of ionic dispersants in said solid stool marker formulation is less than 0.00117 gram-equivalent weights of ionic dispersants per gram of barium sulfate.

20. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein the stool marker formulation according to claim 1 is treated with a treatment selected from the group consisting of high shear stirring and sonificaion prior to administration to a patient.

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